

ROUTINE

PRECEDENCE

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CLASSIFICATION

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FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM//TOSCO 108 //

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

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DTG: 070248ZRELEASED BY: RTOR: 070254Z

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

TOSCO 108

75 DEC 6 PM 10:02

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

BY JOHN ROUBICEK

DARWIN, AUSTRALIA, DEC 7 (SAYDAY), REUTER - RADIO REPORTS MONITORED HERE TODAY SAID DILI, CAPITAL OF THE UNILATERALLY-DECLARED REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR, WAS UNDER ATTACK TODAY FROM WARSHIPS AND PARATROOPERS.

THE REPORTS SAID MORE THAN A THOUSAND PARATROOPERS HAD LANDED IN THE CITY AND AT LEAST FOUR WARSHIPS WERE STATIONED OFF THE PORTUGUESE COLONY, LOCATED NORTH OF AUSTRALIA.

THE MESSAGES PICKED UP HERE REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR AUSTRALIAN HELP.

"WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE BEING SHOT INDISCRIMINATELY IN THE STREETS. WE ARE GOING TO BE KILLED. S.O.S. DO SOMETHING, DO SOMETHING....," SAID ONE MESSAGE.

MORE 2015

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TIMOR-REPORTS 2 DARWIN

THE MESSAGES GAVE NO INDICATION WHETHER THE ATTACK WAS BEING RESISTED BY FRETELIN FORCES WHO SET UP A REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT IN THE PORTUGUESE COLONY MORE THAN A WEEK AGO.

IN ONE MESSAGE FROM DILI AN EYEWITNESS REPORTED:

"THEY ARE ALL AROUND THE AIRFIELD AND IN DILI. THEY HAVE US SURROUNDED.

"PLEASE HELP US. THEY ARE KILLING WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE STREETS. THEY ARE KILLING INDISCRIMINATELY."

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(MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN SUNDAY CABLE SUMMARY)